

# MD HBX: News and Updates

## Editor's Note

Welcome to the September HBX newsletter. We are excited to have many new subscribers this month. This series of communications is intended to provide updates and helpful tools as we work together for the successful implementation of new technology for open enrollment starting in November.

## Re-Enrollment for 2015

Outreach efforts begin in September to encourage all Marylanders who enrolled in qualified health plans through Maryland Health Connection in 2014 to re-enroll for 2015 coverage by applying through [www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov) during open enrollment.

Marylanders will be invited to use sign-up tools to request in-person help enrolling this fall from authorized producers or navigators. **More information on this process and your involvement will be provided soon.**

Please help encourage all Marylanders interested in quality and affordable coverage to see new plan offerings and rates for 2015. Consumers who visit the new website and choose a plan by Dec. 18 can:

- See new 2015 plans
- Compare prices
- Find out whether they are eligible for financial assistance
- Sign up for Jan. 1 coverage

## Stay Connected



Sign up for stakeholder/partner updates at <http://marylandhbe.com/> and updates to consumers [available here](#).

- Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on Twitter [@MarylandConnect](#)
- Subscribe to us on [YouTube](#)

## Did You Know?

As of late August, 78,666 individuals have enrolled in qualified health plans, and 355,281 individuals have gained Medicaid coverage in 2014 and remain active in Medicaid.

## We Are Making Progress

Plan management testing is complete. We are continuing to test MD HBX system functionality as well as the processing of enrollment files. The development focus has shifted to identifying and solving issues that are discovered during testing.

## You Will Be Prepared

We continue to make sure all workers are prepared for this year's open enrollment. One important step is defining the processes that will be needed to operate the system in the Maryland environment. How the system adoption will impact our work will be shared through stakeholder meetings, training, and communication. We look forward to continuing to work with you during the next two months and throughout open enrollment.

## **Eligibility Determination Overview**

MD HBX system training for workers and assisters is less than one month away! It will run Oct. 6 to Nov. 11. Training will consist of an online prerequisite course and an instructor-led portion.

In training, professional users will become familiar with MD HBX Web Application capabilities and understand its features and functionalities, including managing an account; creating an application; understanding eligibility determinations; and shopping and enrolling in a health plan.

## **We Want Your Feedback!**

To help us to achieve our goal, we would like to increase the number of readers of our newsletter and incorporate your feedback and questions. We invite you to send a consolidated list of email addresses of your staff who should receive the newsletter, as well as your feedback and questions, to [info@marylandhbe.com](mailto:info@marylandhbe.com).

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Question: What are the age limits for primary applicants?**

**Answer:** Primary applicants must be 18 or older, unless emancipated, which permits them to apply starting at age 16.

### **Question: Can undocumented people choose to be the primary applicants within MD HBX?**

**Answer:** Yes, undocumented immigrants can be the primary applicant in the MD HBX system. Because the primary applicant must be age 18 or older, undocumented immigrants can include themselves as the primary applicant to apply for their children's health coverage. However, they are ineligible to receive coverage themselves.

In order to proceed within their application on behalf of their household, they should indicate that they are not seeking coverage. By indicating they are not applying for coverage, the system will allow them to proceed with the application even if they don't provide a Social Security Number.

### **Question: How does MD HBX validate information that a consumer inputs?**

**Answer:** During the application intake process, the MD HBX system integrates with trusted external data services to verify individual self-attested information and ensure that the consumer receives an accurate eligibility determination.

For example, "Melissa" is the name of the database that validates consumer-provided addresses. The Federal Services Data Hub validates consumer information such as income, citizenship, immigration status and access to minimum essential coverage.